Stop Blabbing Secrets, Says Congressman

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Excessive talk about U.S. intelligence secrets was denounced in a House speech Thursday by a Texas congressman who said it is "making us the laughing stock of the world."

"Officials in Moscow, Peking and Havana must applaud our stupidity in announcing publicly facts which they would gladly spend huge sums of money endeavoring to obtain," said Rep. George Mahon (D., Tex.).

Mahon, 6-foot-2 chairman of the House military appropriations subcommittee, said the Kennedy administration "has mistakenly allowed itself to be goaded into revealing information detrimental to our best interests."

He did not cite any specific instances but said:

"Every day some high ranking intelligence office is quoted in the newspapers on some subject or another.

"These men are men who should neither be seen nor heard," he said. "A passion for anonymity is an integral part of their jobs.

"There is an intelligence gap," Mahon went on, and "is "in the intelligence of those who are daily revealing the secrets of the intelligence operations of the U.S. government."

Mahon, who has been handling defense secrets for more than two decades as a member of the military appropriations subcommittee, demanded an end to the loose talk, which he said is doing "outrageous and intolerable" damage to U.S. intelligence efforts.

He said President Kennedy, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, and House Speaker John McCormack (D., Mass.) should get together and halt what he termed "the rapid erosion of our national intelligence effort."

He said the executive branch, the legislative branch, and Republicans and Democrats alike "must share the blame" for the present situation.

Declaring there has been "a great excess of talk" in recent weeks, Mahon told the House:

"Members of both the legislative, and executive branches have publicly discussed matters which should only be discussed behind closed doors.

"Along with many other Americans," he added, "I am tired of these demonstrations of bad judgment."